

1 1. In a system including a data server and a client that is associated with a web
2 browser, wherein the client accesses data stored on the data server and displays such data
3 using the web browser, a method for transforming the accessed data into a format for
4 viewing using the web browser, the method comprising:

5 an act of the client accessing a view descriptor, the view descriptor identifying
6 stored data and including formatting parameters on how the identified stored data should
7 be arranged when viewed;

8 an act of the client processing the view descriptor using a generic view class to
9 generate a specific view class;

10 an act of the client accessing the stored data that was identified by the view
11 descriptor; and

12 an act of the client formatting the accessed data for viewing in accordance with the
13 formatting parameters.

14
15 2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client accessing a
16 view descriptor comprises the following:

17 an act of the client accessing a view descriptor that includes parameters on how the
18 identified stored data should be arranged when viewed on the web browser.

19
20 3. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client accessing a
21 view descriptor comprises the following:

22 an act of the client accessing a view descriptor that includes Extensible Markup
23 Language tags.

1 4. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client accessing a
2 view descriptor comprises the following:

3 an act of the client downloading the view descriptor.
4

5 5. The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the act of downloading the
6 view descriptor comprises the following:

7 an act of the client downloading the view descriptor over a dial-up connection.
8

9 6. The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the act of the downloading the
10 view descriptor comprises the following:

11 an act of the client downloading the view descriptor over a permanent network
12 connection.
13

14 7. The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the act of downloading the view
15 descriptor comprises the following:

16 an act of the client downloading the view descriptor over the Internet.
17

18 8. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client accessing a
19 view descriptor comprises the following:

20 an act of the client accessing a locally stored view descriptor through an API to an
21 operating system running on the client.
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1 9. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client processing
2 the view descriptor comprises the following:

3 an act of the client processing the view descriptor and a generic view class
4 associated with the view descriptor in order to generate a specific view class for the stored
5 data.

6
7 10. The method as recited in Claim 9, wherein an act of the client processing
8 the view descriptor and a generic view class associated with the view descriptor comprises
9 the following:

10 an act of the client processing the view descriptor and a generic view class
11 associated with the view descriptor, the view descriptor including Extensible Style
12 Language tags, in order to generate a specific view class for the stored data.

13
14 11. The method as recited in Claim 9, wherein the act of the client processing a
15 view descriptor and a generic view class associated with the view descriptor comprises the
16 following:

17 an act of the client generating a specific view class.

18
19 12. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client processing
20 the view descriptor comprises the following:

21 an act of the client processing the view descriptor to generate a query, which may
22 be submitted to the data server.

1 13. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the act of the client processing
2 the view descriptor to generate a query comprises the following:

3 an act of the view control processing the view descriptor to generate an SQL query,
4 which may be submitted to the data server.

6 14. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client accessing the
7 stored data comprises the following:

8 an act of the client submitting a query to the data server.

10 15. The method as recited in Claim 14, wherein the act of the client submitting
11 a query to the data server comprises the following:

12 an act of the client submitting a SQL query to the data server.

14 16. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client accessing the
15 stored data comprises the following:

16 an act of the client downloading the stored data from the data server.

18 17. The method as recited in Claim 16, wherein the act of the client
19 downloading the stored data from the data server comprises the following:

20 an act of the client receiving stored data, which includes Extensible Markup
21 Language tags, from the server.

23 18. The method as recited in Claim 16, wherein the act of the client
24 downloading the stored data from the data server comprises the following:

1 an act of the client receiving stored data, which includes Hypertext Markup
2 Language tags, from the server.

3
4 19. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client accessing the
5 stored data comprises the following:

6 an act of the client accessing locally stored data through an API to an operating
7 system running on the client.

8
9 20. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client formatting
10 the accessed data for viewing comprises the following:

11 an act of the client formatting the accessed data for viewing in Internet Explorer.

12
13 21. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client formatting
14 the accessed data for viewing in accordance with the formatting parameters comprises the
15 following:

16 an act of the client processing the specific view class to format the data.

17
18 22. The method as recited in Claim 21, wherein the act of the client processing
19 the specific view class comprises the following:

20 an act of the client processing Extensible Markup Language tags in the specific
21 view class .

22
23 23. The method as recited in Claim 21, wherein the act of the client processing
24 the specific view class comprises the following:

an act of the view control processing Extensible Style Language tags in the specific view class .

24. The method as recited in Claim 21, wherein the act of the client processing the specific view class comprises the following:

an act of the client processing Extensible Markup Language tags and Extensible Style Language tags in the specific view class.

25. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client formatting the accessed data for viewing comprises the following:

an act of the client formatting the accessed data into data that includes Hypertext Markup Language tags.

26. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising an act of the client outputting the formatted data.

27. The method as recited in Claim 26, wherein the act of the client outputting the data comprises the following:

an act of the client displaying the data to a web browser.

28. The method as recited in Claim 26, wherein the act of the client outputting the data comprises the following:

an act of the client outputting the data in Hypertext Markup Language.

1 29. In a system including a data server and a client that is associated with a web
2 browser, wherein the client accesses data stored on the data server and displayed such data
3 using the web browser, a method for transforming the accessed data into a format for
4 viewing using a web browser, the method comprising:

5 an act of the client accessing a view descriptor, the view descriptor identifying
6 stored data and includes parameters on how the identified stored data should be arranged
7 when viewed; and

8 a step for converting the identified stored data for viewing so as to allow easy
9 viewing of data stored in different formats.

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11 30. The method as recited in claim 29, wherein the step for converting the
12 identified stored data for viewing comprises the following:

13 an act of converting the identified stored data into displayable data that includes
14 Hypertext Markup Language tags.

15
16 31. The method as recited in claim 29, wherein the step for converting the
17 identified stored data for viewing comprises the following:

18 an act of converting the identified stored data into a format that is displayable on a
19 web browser.
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1 32. A computer program product for implementing, in a system including a data
2 server and a client that is associated with a web browser, wherein the client accesses some
3 the data stored on the data server and displays such data using the web browser, a method
4 for transforming the accessed data into a format for viewing using a web browser, the
5 computer program product comprising:

6 a computer-readable medium carrying computer-readable instructions, that
7 when executed at the client, cause the client to perform the following:

8 an act of accessing a view descriptor, the view descriptor identifying
9 stored data and including formatting parameters on how the identified
10 stored data should be arranged when viewed;

11 an act of processing the view descriptor;

12 an act of the accessing the stored data that was identified by the
13 view descriptor; and

14 an act of formatting the accessed data for viewing in accordance
15 with the parameters;
16

17 33. The computer program product as recited in Claim 32, wherein the
18 computer-readable medium is a physical storage device.
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20 34. The computer program product as recited in claim 32, wherein the
21 computer-readable instructions that cause the client to perform the act of formatting the
22 accessed data for viewing in accordance with the formatting parameters comprise
23 computer-readable instructions that cause the client to perform the following when
24 executed at the client:

1 an act of converting the identified stored data into displayable content that includes
2 Hypertext Markup Language tags.

3
4 35. The computer program product as recited in claim 32, wherein the
5 computer-readable instructions that cause the client to perform the act of formatting the
6 accessed data for viewing in accordance with the formatting parameters comprise
7 computer-readable instructions that cause the client to perform the following when
8 executed at the client:

9 an act of converting the identified stored data into a format that is displayable on a
10 web browser.